## CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITIES, INC. SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

"HEALTHY KIDS MAKE BETTER LEARNERS"

February 22, 2017

Dear Senator Gerrantan, Representative Dillon, Senator Somers, Representative Walker, Senator Osten and Senator Formica,

My name is Nicole Woering NP-C, APRN, and I am the Nurse Practitioner at the Newtown Middle School-School Based Health Center (SBHC). I am writing to you to ask for your support to prevent further cuts to the School Based Health Centers of CT.

The Newtown Middle School-School Based Health Center was licensed February 26, 2015. We are the first SBHC in the town of Newtown. At first, the community was unsure of what we could accomplish, and what we could do for the students at Newtown Middle School. Within a short period of time, we have positively impacted the students here medically and mentally. We have received positive feedback through the students, staff and parents.

As, the SBHC Nurse Practitioner, I am able to see children for various symptoms, diagnose their problems and help to treat them all within the school day. I strongly believe that education is essential to our youth. I strive to prevent children from missing valuable class time. With a medical visit to the SBHC, a child is not missing educational time from school and their parent/guardian is not missing time from work to bring their child to their primary care provider.

The licensed clinical social worker I work with at the SBHC, is able to also diagnose and treat children all during the school day. She meets with children individually, provides group and family therapy and will involve staff on an as needed basis. Regardless of the students insurance, she can provide therapy which is not always as easy to do in the community.

The office assistant at the SBHC is here to assist in scheduling the students for appointments. She schedules students meticulously as to avoid the child from missing time from academics. She also assists in providing community outreach to the students and staff at Newtown Middle School.

Please offer your support in prevent further budget cuts to the SBHC's of CT. Thank you,
Nicole Woering NP-C, APRN
Newtown Middle School-SBHC
11 Queen St.
Newtown, CT 06470

Danbury High School SBHC, 43 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 (203) 790-2886 Broadview Middle School SBHC, 72 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 731-8272 Rogers Park Middle School SBHC, 21 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 778-7479 Henry Abbott Technical School SBHC, 21 Hayestown Avenue, Danbury, CT 06811 (203) 797-4460 x4936 Newtown Middle School SBHC, 11 Queen Street, Newtown, CT 06470 (203) 270-6114

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